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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the situation in Rwanda (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and the attached statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alimamy Pallo BANGURA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement on the situation in Rwanda issued on 5 July 1994 by the Government of Sierra Leone

The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, through its delegation to the Thirtieth Summit Meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held at Tunis from 13 to 15 June 1994, joined other African Governments represented at the Summit in adopting a resolution on the situation in Rwanda. By that resolution, African Governments expressed their strong condemnation of the massacres and systematic killings that were taking place in Rwanda and called upon the warring parties concerned to put an end to those heinous crimes, which were characterized as crimes against humanity. They also called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the establishment of a cease-fire.

Notwithstanding this collective pronouncement by OAU, the human carnage in Rwanda has persisted, with innocent civilians as the primary target amidst a climate of ethnic hatred and fear.

This is the backdrop against which the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone views the involvement of the armed forces of the French Republic in Rwanda. Accordingly, Sierra Leone fully understands and appreciates the circumstances that prompted France's humanitarian intervention, the objective of which is to save innocent civilian life and property in Rwanda, and welcomes the declaration by the Government of France of the limited duration of its action.

The Government of Sierra Leone would like to avail itself of this opportunity to urge the warring parties to heed, without further delay, the terms of the OAU resolution. It would also like to urge the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in collaboration with the countries of the region, to take all necessary measures to facilitate the quick and effective deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) II with a view to ending the massacres and the hostilities and creating an environment conducive to the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement.